

Reducing Combined Sewer Overflows at Denny Way

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In 1988, Metro (now King County) and the City of Seattle (Seattle) completed separate planning efforts to address control of CSOs. In 1988, an agreement was reached between Ecology and Metro that Metro would reduce CSO's system-wide by 75 percent of a 1982 baseline (2.4 billion gallons) and reduce Denny Way CSO volumes by 50 percent of the 1982 baseline (405 million gallons) by the end of 2005. The Lake Union CSOs totaled 101 million gallons per year in 1988. Ecology's regulations require that CSO's be controlled such that an average of one untreated discharge may occur per year.

Right now, untreated CSOs are discharged to Lake Union between 10 and 115 times per year, depending on rainfall and other weather conditions. They are discharged about 50 times per year into Elliott Bay at Myrtle Edwards Park. The Denny Way CSO project will include a combination of storage (7.2 Million Gallons), treatment, and transfer to the existing West Point Treatment plant. When the Denny/Lake Union Project is completed, treated flows will be discharged 4 to 20 times per year, and untreated CSOs will be discharged one time per year (on average) at each remaining CSO outfall location.